



MARICOPA COUNTY
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COUNTY GETS TOUGHER ON DUST VIOLATORS

NEW POLICY NOW IN EFFECT

(Phoenix) -- The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors announced a more vigorous enforcement policy today for violators of county dust control requirements. The Board has authorized the Department of Environmental Services to have field inspectors immediately issue citations or refer cases to the County Attorney's Office for prosecution of 14 specific violations of the dust control rules.

Examples of violations that may result in the filing of a criminal complaint upon initial discovery include:

- ☐ Operating a construction site without a permit
- ☐ Failing to use commonly available dust control measures and generating excessive dust at construction sites, unpaved parking lots and commercial feedlots
- ☐ Failing site stabilization tests on parking lots
- ☐ Failing to control dust on haul roads and access roads
- ☐ Failing to control dust on inactive portions of construction sites
- ☐ Failing to cover loads contained in haul trucks, or spilling dirt onto paved public roadways
- ☐ Failing to prevent trackout of dirt on to paved public roadways
- ☐ Failing to use water to control dust if that is the method specified in the site's dust control plan
- ☐ Failing to apply water while disking/tilling or blading to control weeds

"We've found that there are basically three types of folks out there moving dirt," said Supervisor's Chairman Andy Kunasek. "The vast majority comply with all of the rules and aren't a problem, and secondly we have those who don't understand the rules and we continue to identify and work to educate those people. Finally, we have those who simply put compliance and the health of Valley citizens behind turning dirt and turning a profit. This policy is designed to be tough on those who choose to ignore the law."

Maricopa County and the state have been working hard to comply with the EPA's clean air standards. In addition to tougher rules and more aggressive enforcement, the County is:

- ☐ Paving 60 miles of unpaved roads, in addition to what local cities and towns have already paved
- ☐ Stabilizing 100 miles of unpaved road shoulders
- ☐ Using new PM-10 efficient street sweepers

"We anticipate the EPA sanction to take effect March 2," said Kunasek. "We expect our compliance plan to be approved by EPA shortly thereafter, however, and the sanction to be lifted before there are any significant negative effects on local businesses."